

REMARKS

The examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1–8, 12–16 and 20–25 on double patenting grounds because those claims are identical to claims 1–19 in copending U.S. Application No. 10/753,552. Accordingly, the applicant has canceled claims 1–8, 12–16 and 20–25 in this application.

The examiner has also rejected claims 11 and 29 because the details of the spring clip are not adequately disclosed. The details of the spring clip are shown in Figure 11A; however, because the details of the spring clip are not material to the present invention, and because the examiner does not feel that this illustration is adequate, the applicant has canceled claims 11 and 29.

The examiner has rejected claim 1 on the grounds that (i) there is no antecedent basis for “the top cross-bar” and “the bottom cross-bar” in claim 1 and (ii) the rails have not been structurally related to the rest of the invention. Although claim 1 has been canceled, claim 9, which is now the first independent claim, has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1. Furthermore, claim 9, as rewritten, has been amended to state that the plurality of cross-bars on both the first and second frames comprises a top cross-bar and a bottom cross-bar (as shown in Figures 1–5). This amendment should address the antecedent basis issue raised by the examiner.

Claim 9 has also been amended to state that each rail comprises a first end and a second end, and that the first end of each rail is pivotally connected to a cross-bar of the first frame and the second end of each rail is pivotally connected to a cross-bar of the second frame, as stated on page 7 of the application and as shown in Figures 3–5. This

amendment should address the examiner's concern that the rails were not structurally related to the rest of the invention.

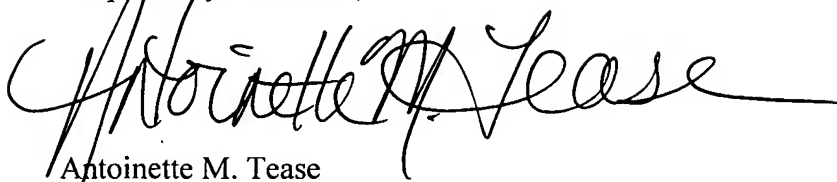
The examiner also rejected claim 9 because, in the examiner's view, the phrase "fit within the extended length of such cross-bar" is indefinite. This concept is illustrated in Figure 9, which shows that all of the rails beneath the second cross-bar fit within the extended length of the second cross-bar when in a full vertically position; however, in order to render the examiner's concern moot, and because this language is not material to the claim, the applicant has deleted the language at issue from claim 9.

The examiner also rejected claim 28 on the ground that "any one of the cross-bars is extended" and "fits into the extended cross-bar" is not [sic] ambiguous. This rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claim 28 by the applicant.

Lastly, because claim 17 was dependent on claim 12, which has been cancelled from this application, claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 12. In addition, this claim has been amended to state that the plurality of cross-bars on both the first and second frames comprises a top cross-bar and a bottom cross-bar (as shown in Figures 1–5). It has also been amended to state that each rail comprises a first end and a second end, that the first end of each rail is pivotally connected to a cross-bar of the first or second frame, and that the second end of each rail is pivotally connected to a cross-bar of the center support, as stated on pages 7 and 10–11 of the application and as shown in Figures 11 and 12.

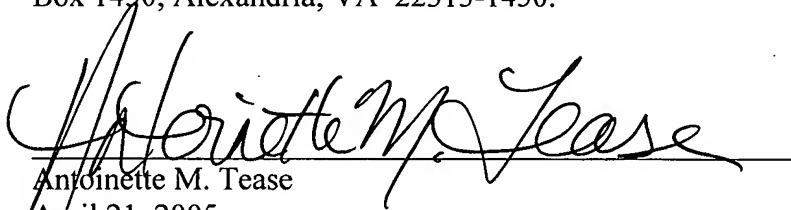
For the reasons set forth above, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9–10 and 17–19 be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



Antoinette M. Tease
Attorney for Applicant
PO Box 51016
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 245-5254
Registration No. 53860

Certificate of Mailing: I certify that on the date below this document and referenced attachments, if any, were deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop Amendment, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450."



Antoinette M. Tease
April 21, 2005